



PUTTING SUSTAINABILITY LESSONS TO WORK.

The Facts about Carpet and Sustainability for School Administrators and Facility Managers

When you choose a flooring option for your educational facility, you want it to be both cost-effective and environmentally responsible. Carpet is both. The carpet industry is taking steps to reduce the amount of carpet that ends up in landfills. Old carpet is being recycled back into new carpet production, or for alternative uses like building materials and auto parts. Choosing carpet is one more way to improve the future for your students.

What You Should Know

- Through the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE), carpet companies are taking the initiative to work with government entities and product suppliers to develop market-based solutions for the recycling and use of post-consumer carpet. For more information, visit carpetrecovery.org.
- The industry is working with individual educational institutions to help preserve and recycle carpet.
- Third Creek Elementary School in Statesville, NC, used recycled-content carpet to meet its “green” goal of having recycled content in more than 50 percent of the building materials for this 92,000 square-foot-facility.
- The Kennedy School at Harvard University renovated its 2,400-square-foot computer lab using carpet tiles made from six-year-old carpet that was cleaned, retextured and restyled with modern carpet designs.
- The industry has also taken steps to be more green in carpet production. It is one of the only industries in the United States that voluntarily meets the Kyoto Protocol for carbon dioxide emissions. The emissions level today is the same as it was in 1990 – even though the industry produces 47 percent more product.
- The amount of energy used to produce a square yard of carpet has fallen 70% since 1990. The amount of water used has dropped 46% in the same time period.
- The carpet industry is constantly looking for ways to continue to reduce its environmental footprint. Learn more in the CRI Sustainability Reports on the CRI website.



Visit carpet-rug.org and criblog.org to learn more.

